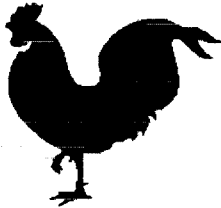


Mattie Smith



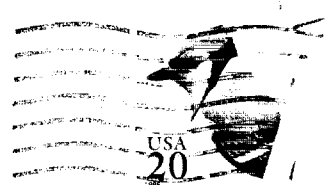
I am writing to tell you that I support the petition to ban the forced molting of layer hens. To trick the hens into laying more eggs, they are deprived of food and water for two weeks or more. To shock the birds' systems further, they are kept in total darkness for weeks on end. Research shows that forced molting is a major cause of salmonella poisoning in eggs. The stressful conditions weaken the birds' immune systems so badly that they become prone to disease, bone breakage, and salmonella infections. The result is sick birds and contaminated eggs. Thank you for your time.

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98P-0203



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